

ABSTRACT

The present invention provides a sanitary napkin that is thin (less than
5 mm in thickness), highly absorbent and has a lateral flexibility allowing for
controlled deformation when in use, namely the assumption of a "W" pattern.
This controlled deformation provides a good comfort potential and simultaneously
reduces the likelihood of bunching due to compression forces exerted laterally
against the napkin by the thighs of the wearer. In a specific example, the sanitary
10 napkin is characterized by a pair of preferential bending zones extending along
the longitudinal axis of the sanitary napkin and by a pair of longitudinal adhesive
zones on the liquid-impervious barrier layer of the sanitary napkin, that register
with the preferential bending zones. The longitudinal adhesive zones fasten the
sanitary napkin to the undergarment at the areas at which the sanitary napkin is
15 intended to fold when subjected to lateral compression. This feature allows the
napkin to fold and adopt a desired three-dimensional deformation profile in a
predictable manner when laterally compressed.

GARIBOLDI - 2010